

than setting into a career in technical skills, Chuck continually sought leadership roles. His talents were recognized and rewarded first with an assignment as the head of the photo section in which he served and later through progressively more responsible roles, including Navy Career Counselor. During his long and distinguished Navy years, he served as an independent duty recruiter, Chief Master at Arms and Command Master Chief for two aircraft carriers, as well as Area and Zone Supervisor for recruiting in Florida and offshore in the Caribbean. Ultimately, he was appointed as Force Master Chief for Navy Recruiting Command, the senior enlisted recruiter in the US Navy and one of a handful of Force Master Chief Petty Officers.

Chuck's Navy service carried him from the United States to the Mediterranean, to South Africa and Vietnam, the South Pacific and the Far East, indeed, all around the world. His service was rewarded with, among other awards, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Force Master Chief Petty Officer and Navy Recruiting Command Badges.

Upon leaving the Navy in 1979, Chuck joined the staff of the Non Commissioned Officers Association. Fourteen months later, he accomplished his first major goal when the Administrator of Veterans Affairs granted NCOA recognition as an Accredited National Service Organization. Chuck recruited and trained the first NCOA national service officers and expanded the force to more than 300 accredited service officers nationally.

Soon thereafter, he was elected to the Board of Directors, where he served first as Secretary, and then as Chairman of the Board of Directors, Executive Vice President and President of the Association.

In 1984, he became the head of NCOA's Washington Office. During his tenure in this position, the association received its Federal Charter from Congress as a Veterans Organization. The association also accomplished many longtime legislative goals, including parity in special pays and survivor benefits for members of the armed forces, separation pay for enlisted members, Permanent enactment of the Montgomery G.I. Bill, improved VA housing benefits, and special VA benefits for reservists.

After becoming president of the association, Chuck set about modernizing NCOA and protecting its future. He upgraded equipment throughout NCOA offices here and abroad. He created new business practices for the association, modernized our partnership relations and created many new opportunities for the association and its members. Among the most notable are the products and service discounts awarded to NCOA members from Federal Express, MNBA Bankcard, AT&T, and many others.

Chuck was also instrumental in launching the NCOA National Defense Foundation, which has donated more than \$5 million in cash and services to the Department of Veterans Affairs since 1990.

Chuck Jackson has brought a new strength and credibility to the Non Commissioned Officers Association. His service is appreciated and will be missed. Please join me in wishing him a long and pleasurable retirement with his wife Sylvia, daughters, Debbie and Dianne, and their grand children.

TRIBUTE TO THE VFW POST 8832 LADIES AUXILIARY IN ROUNDHEAD, OHIO

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend to the attention of all those present before the House of Representatives and hope that other civic groups will follow in the footsteps of the VFW Post 8832 Ladies Auxiliary in Roundhead, Ohio as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. A copy of my congratulatory letter to them is included for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 16, 1998.

Ms. SHIRLEY KRAMER,
*VFW Post 8832 Roundhead
Lakeview, OH.*

DEAR FRIENDS: I just learned that you will be celebrating your 50th anniversary this month. Please allow me to add my name to the list of well-wishers on this great occasion.

This is quite a milestone and one that you all can certainly be proud of achieving. This achievement validates all your hard work and dedication. The community owes a debt of gratitude for all that you have contributed to it every since your beginnings in 1948. I commend all your many worthwhile programs which benefit our hospitals, youth, veterans, and families. I look forward to 50 more exciting years from VFW Post 8832 Ladies Auxiliary, Roundhead.

Once again, congratulations on your anniversary and please keep up the great work.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL G. OXLEY, M.C.
Fourth Ohio District.

FANNIE MAE—TRILLION DOLLAR COMMITMENT

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, this week, Fannie Mae celebrates the fourth anniversary of its Trillion Dollar Commitment. I rise before you today to congratulate Fannie Mae CEO Jim Johnson and all of Fannie Mae's employees and local partners on the tremendous impact they have had on expanding home ownership opportunities in Minnesota and the nation.

Since March 1994, Fannie Mae has helped 5.6 million families through this targeted effort. Sixty-eight percent of Fannie Mae's business served families most in need—minorities, new immigrants, residents of central cities and underserved areas, first-time home buyers and people with special housing needs.

I have seen firsthand the impact of this commitment in Minneapolis and the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Fannie Mae's Minnesota Partnership Office piloted a highly successful low downpayment mortgage, known as the "Minnesota Flex," which is now offered in many communities nationwide. This mortgage product helps first-time homebuyers overcome one of the major obstacles to homeownership—saving for a downpayment. Last year, Fannie Mae also launched a rehab effort in

Northeast Minneapolis, which is helping to revitalize that community.

Nationally, Fannie Mae is transforming the housing finance system by removing barriers to homeownership and increasing the supply of affordable housing. In short, Fannie Mae's commitment is making a tangible impact on communities and improving the quality of life for homebuyers as well as renters.

I commend Fannie Mae and its local partners on a job well done and wish them further success in expanding home ownership and affordable housing opportunities in the coming years. I would also like to read the attached letter from the Mayor of Minneapolis in support of Fannie Mae's efforts.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,
Minneapolis, MN, March 4, 1998.

Mr. JAMES A. JOHNSON,
*Chairman, Fannie Mae,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR JIM: I want to extend my sincere congratulations to you and all of Fannie Mae on your upcoming fourth anniversary of the Trillion Dollar Commitment. It has been delightful to partner with Fannie Mae as you strive to reach your goal of serving the housing needs of underserved populations.

The City of Minneapolis has benefited from Fannie Mae's commitment in many ways. The work of the Partnership Office in finding creative solutions for our community's needs has been a critical component for our housing programs.

The new townhouse River Station development project would not have moved forward without Fannie Mae's American Communities Fund. Homeownership opportunities will be available for 360 families in Minneapolis' riverfront area.

The Section 8 homeownership demonstration project secured HUD approval once Fannie Mae committed \$4 million as an underwriting experiment to fund the mortgages.

Northeast Minneapolis received special funding under your innovative HomeStyle rehab initiative. The entire City is benefiting from your outreach efforts through HomeStyle.

By credit enhancing and purchasing our mortgage revenue bonds, first-time homebuyers achieved lower interest rates.

Your new Neighborhood Partners initiative in the Phillips, Powderhorn, and Central neighborhoods will be a huge boost to revitalizing these underserved areas.

I look forward to continuing our partnership as we explore ways to help even more Minneapolis residents achieve homeownership and affordable housing.

Sincerely,

SHARON SAYLES BELTON,
Mayor, City of Minneapolis.

IN HONOR OF HERIBERTO CRUZ

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Puerto Rico's greatest athletes and role models, Heriberto Cruz. Mr. Cruz is a shining example of someone who has developed his talents to the fullest and has given back to the community tenfold. We can all be inspired by his example.

Mr. Cruz, now living in Brooklyn, New York, was born in Puerto Rico. Starting at a young age, he excelled in track and field events and

quickly became a star. As a student at the University of Puerto Rico, he was the only athlete in the history of intercollegiate games in Puerto Rico to win the Best Athlete award 4 years in a row. Also, while at school, he participated and excelled at a number of international competitions, such as the Central American Games, the Pan American Games, and even the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. Mr. Cruz received recognition for his many accomplishments when he was inducted into the Puerto Rican Sports Hall of Fame in 1991.

Mr. Cruz's success off the track matches his success on the track. Since retiring from the sport, Mr. Cruz has become a teacher and a marvellous example for the youth of Brooklyn, applying the same lessons he learned on the track to everyday life. His example teaches kids always to strive, to work hard and play fair to succeed in life.

I urge my colleagues to recognize Mr. Cruz's excellence both on and off the field and join me in paying tribute to this excellent athlete and role model.

HONORING PASTOR AND MRS.
EDDIE McDONALD, SR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to rise before you today to recognize the lifetime achievements of Pastor Eddie A. McDonald, Sr. and his wife, Mary, as they celebrate their 30th anniversary at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan. On Saturday, March 14, members of the Friendship family and the Pontiac community will honor Pastor and Mrs. McDonald for their service to our Lord.

The McDonald's joined the family of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church on March 28, 1968. They have been instrumental in the expansion of the congregation and the mission of the church. For 30 years, Reverend and Mrs. McDonald have provided sound leadership and spiritual guidance not only to their congregation, but to anyone in need.

Five years ago, I stood before my colleagues, as I do today, speaking of the valuable resource the citizens of Pontiac have in Pastor and Mrs. McDonald. The missions they have undertaken and the vision they possess have enabled them to forge relationships with many diverse groups.

The McDonald's influence extends throughout the community. They are affiliated with a number of professional and charitable organizations including the Pontiac Ecumenical Ministry, Pontiac Citizen's Coalition, Lighthouse and the Pontiac Youth Assistance Program. Pastor McDonald has also served as president of the Oakland County Ministerial Fellowship. Not limiting their good deeds to the State of Michigan, the McDonald's have been instrumental in food and clothing drives benefiting needy individuals throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, once again I am very proud to acknowledge and commend the efforts of my constituents and dear friends, Pastor and Mrs. Eddie A. McDonald Sr. They are an inspiration to us all and I am proud to represent them in the Congress.

THE 42D ANNIVERSARY OF TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the anniversary of the 42nd year of Independence for the Republic of Tunisia, to be celebrated on March 20, 1998.

Legend has it that more than 200 years ago, Tunis, as token of esteem and friendship, sent one of its finest stallions to U.S. President George Washington. Unfortunately, customs officials in the nascent republic denied entry to the horse, which spent its remaining days in the Port of Baltimore.

After this somewhat rocky start, I am pleased to note that U.S.-Tunisian relations have improved considerably. Tunisia is about to celebrate its 42nd anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Tunisia as an independent country, a time during which Tunisia has enjoyed a strong and healthy relationship with the United States.

I congratulate Tunisia for its many accomplishments, not the least of which is to have established a more democratic system of government, making every effort to broaden political debate, including passage of an electoral law that reserved 19 seats of the National assembly for members of opposition political parties.

Tunisia has a very impressive economic record, having turned to economic programs designed to privatize state owned companies and to reform the banking and financial sectors over the last decade.

As a result Tunisia's economy has grown at an average rate of 4.65 percent just in the last three years, and its economic success has had a beneficial impact on Tunisia's international standing. Tunisia is one of the few countries to graduate successfully from development assistance and to join the developed world.

Tunisia has also become a moderating force in the Middle East peace process, taking an active role within the international community in fighting terrorism.

This may not seem so important until you consider that Tunisia's only two neighbors are Algeria which has been racked by civil strife for several years, and Libya, whose dictator has supported the most nefarious and subversive kinds of terrorism.

Tunisia may not live in a good, friendly neighborhood, but they are good neighbors to the United States, maintaining internal stability in the face of external chaos.

With increasing strong ties between us, the American people congratulate the people of Tunisia on this historic occasion, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

A TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY KOHLARS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the remarkable and memorable life of Dorothy

Kohlars, perhaps the oldest living veteran alive today at the young age of 102½ years. Dorothy, a resident of the Veterans Home of California in Barstow, was recently inducted into the Mojave Desert Chapter of the Retired Officers Association.

Dorothy Kohlars was born on August 22, 1895 in Hanover, Massachusetts. She joined the Army Nurse Corps in 1918 and enlisted for a second time in 1920 serving for approximately 3½ years all together. As an Army nurse in World War I, Dorothy was one of about 200 nurses working at an allied forces hospital in France during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in 1918. She worked as a bandage nurse and spent much of her time applying dressings to wounded soldiers. At that point in time, nurses were not commissioned and did not have a military rank. Barbara Churchill, who served as a Navy nurse in World War II, said that Dorothy Kohlars paved the way for nurses. "There was a dire need for nurses back then and women like Dorothy filled that need," Churchill said.

The Retired Officers Association is a national group of retired military commissioned and warrant officers. Saul Rosenthal, TROA's liaison, said his organization read about Kohlars in the local newspaper and its membership felt it appropriate to name her as an honorary member. "I think it's wonderful for them to think of me this way," Kohlars said. "That was another time. It seems so long ago."

Dorothy was married in 1932 and worked as a nurse until 1943. Today, she enjoys visiting with friends, and listening to music, talking books, and to the news on Braille talking records.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in recognizing the incredible lifetime contributions and achievements of this remarkable woman. Dorothy Kohlars is a living national treasure and it is only fitting that the House of Representatives pay tribute to her today.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHRISTIAN CARING CENTER

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to recognize and honor the Christian Caring Center-Pemberton, Inc. for their 15 years of service to the community.

At its inception, emergency food and clothing were distributed from a 20 x 40 foot building one day per week. Remaining there for nine years, 40 to 50 families per day were served with life's necessities.

Today, in a larger facility, nine programs are administered by the caring employees and volunteers. These include emergency food and clothing, thrift store, information and referrals to social service agencies and churches, community lunch/rural homeless program, Bible hour worship services and job training among others.

The families who have been assisted by the dedicated volunteers of this worthy organization are too numerous to be counted.

On April 19, 1998, these volunteers will be honored with a celebration dinner. It is these